UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS

DATE: 7/20/66

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (66-3476)

SUBJECT: HAROLD WEISBERG
AUTHOR OF "WHITEWASH"
COOPERATION WITH NEWS MEDIA
WNEW-TV

On 7/13/66, PAUL NOBLE, Producer of the Alan Burke television show, seen on Saturday nights on WNEW-TV, telephonically advised that ALAN BURKE's guest for the 7/23/66 show would be HAROLD WEISBERG, the author of the book "Whitewash." According to PAUL NOBLE, this program would be taped on 7/14/66. His purpose in calling was to furnish us this information, and he requested any information in possession of the FBI which could refute WEISBERG's book.

Mr. NOBLE was furnished all public source data and material which refuted criticism placed on the FBI or the Warren Commission for their investigation of the assasination of President KENNEDY. Arrangements were made so that the audio portion of the tape could be reviewed by the NYO.

On 7/19/66, the audio portion of the Alan Burke Show was reviewed by Special Agents of the NYO, a summary of which follows:

Mr. WEISBERG advised that he had problems in having his book published as there was a self-emposed embargo by the publishing firms that this was not a good topic for their business. He stated that no one in government entered into this embargo and that it was entirely self-emposed by the publisher.

He stated he did not agree with the Warren Commission's report on the assasination of President KENNEDY, nor of the two FBI reports on President KENNEDY's death. However, he did not go into detail of why he did not agree with the FBI reports.

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He advised that both the Warren Commission and the FBI were government agencies that were in some way involved either directly or indirectly with the President; such as the Secret Service protecting the President, and LEE OSWALD involved in assignments with the FBI.

He spoke of the autopsy performed by the Naval doctors in Washington, D.C., and how some of the first reports were destroyed by the Chief Examiner. He also stated that the Naval examinations did not wholely agree with the findings of the doctors in Dallas who tried to save the President's life on the day he was assasined. He explained that the doctors in Dallas had stated in their reports that there was a wound in the neck area of the President indicating a possibility of a person firing from another position other than that position of OSWALD's.

WEISBERG stated that it was his opinion that OSWALD was a fall guy, that there was someone else involved but that he did not know who, how many, or what their reasons were for killing President KENNEDY. He further stated that he could not name any organization or give any opinion of who might have taken part in this assasination.

He stated that the FBI reports were different from the Commission's report and that he did not hold the FBI responsible for the Commission's report, but that the Commission's staff was responsible and not the men on the Commission.

WEISBERG then went on to explain that each member of the Commission was a dedicated man, fair, and put out his best work. However, they erred in their findings. He also stated that he was not challenging the integrity of Chief Justice WARREN.

WEISBERG stated that he could not accept the Warren report in any form and set forth the conclusions of his book as follows:

1) The investigation was not done well.

2) The investigation must be done by Congress and must be public.

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3) For him to succeed in bringing about the above second step, he must destroy, by means of his book, the findings of the Warren report or leave a very great doubt in everyone's mind.

He stated he did not feel the Commission proved that OSWALD could kill the President alone or that he must have had the help of another person. He further stated that OSWALD could not have killed police officer TIBETT. He stated he believed that the man who killed officer TIBETT bore a very close resemblence to OSWALD. At this point in his interview, he stated he believed the Commission bent evidence to their own thinking and should have investigated the death of officer TIBETT. He stated, based on the Commission's own investigation of OSWALD's movements, he could not have been in the area where TIBETT had been killed. He further stated that nowhere in the Commission's report is there any information on TIBETT's death.

In the discussion of the Warren Commission's report, WEISBERG stated that a number of problems confronted the government at the time of President KENNEDY's assasination; such as the public tranquility, was this assasination a conspiracy or a plot by a foreign government, and would it lead to war. All these thoughts lead to extremely difficult problems in bonducting such an investigation.

He stated that in speaking of the men on the Commission, that they were loyal, dedicated and trustworthy citizens. However, because of their high position in public office and not being able to delegate these powers, they in turn delegated the investigation to staff members and this is the area in which they failed.

WEISBERG spoke about an unknown witness who was interviewed in Dallas, Texas, by a staff member and who was accused by this staff member of perjury and that the Commission never followed this up. He stated the Commission set about to prove a case against OSWALD, who was a person accused, rather than to obtain the truth.

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He further pointed out that a man was arrested in a building across Houston Street in Dallas, Texas, for no other reason than for being unable to explain what he was doing there. This was just before Dallas Police had picked up OSWALD. He stated the Commission did not interview this person.

Several times during the interview, WEISBERG stated he doubted the accuracy of the Warren report but went out of his way to state he did not doubt the intent of the members of the Commission.

WEISBERG also spoke of finding a rifle in the Book Depository and three shells, that no one saw OSWALD carry the gun into the building, that the proof that OSWALD had bought such a gun was based on handwriting, and that no one had ever seen OSWALD with this rifle in his possession.

He also discussed, at some length, the autopsies performed on TIBEPT, OSWALD, and President KENNEDY, and that in the report, only President KENNEDY is mentioned, and this is for the first time.

WEISBERG was very critical of the Dallas Police Department and stated "they were directly responsible for OSWALD's murder."

He then went on to explain that 70 Dallas Police officers were used to protect OSWALD and against the advice of the Sheriff's Office of Dallas and the FBI, they would not remove OSWALD on the night of February 23rd. He stated the reason the Dallas Police Department would not remove him was the Dallas Police Chief had told the Press the exact time he was planning to move him and that he wanted to keep this appointed time. He stated that he felt the Commission should have looked into the Dallas Police Department activities.

WEISBERG put great emphasis on the three shells found in the Book Depository. He stated that these shells, after examination, were found to have been in another rifle, other than the one found on the 6th floor. WEISBERG stated

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he was using as his authority Mr. HOOVER, Director of the FBI. He stated that although they had markings on them from the rifle found on the 6th floor, they were not able to say when they had been fired. He also stated that only one of OSWALD's palm prints was found on the rifle, in a position under the barrel of the gun, and that various prints of OSWALD's were found on the 6th floor, but these were of no value in the investigation because OSWALD worked on that floor in his every day duties at the Depository.

WEISBERG further stated that a bullet, described by the Commission as hitting President KENNEDY and Governor CONNELLY, could do all the things that it did and not be disformed. He described three bullets, the above mentioned one, the missed bullet, and the one in President KENNEDY's head. He pointed out that OSWALD was a rather poor shot, having scored a 191 in the Marine Corps and that a 190 was the qualifying score for a marksman.

WEISBERG discussed ballistics during the discussion and divided this into two parts:

1). concerning the President

2) concerning officer TIBETT.

WEISBERG stated that with regards to the President, some fragments can be identified and some cannot. He stated the FBI made a spectrographic analysis and a Special Agent GALLAGHER of the FBI, who made the analysis, was called as a witness only as the hearing concluded around September 15th, and that he was never asked for a spectrographic analysis nor is this analysis part of the record. Mr. WEISBERG stated even Mr. HOOVER said that the curbstone fragments were not associated with other bullet fragments.

With regard to officer TIBETT, WEISBERG stated that the FBI took his pistol to its laboratory in Washington, D.C., fired it 100 times, and could not associate the bullets with the pistol that they knew it was fired from.

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In answer to a question about the speed of firing the rifle, WEISBERG stated that without regard to accuracy, and with a bullet in the breach, the most competent men in the FBI, "the fastest drawer in Washington" took 2.3 seconds just to reload.

A person by the name of GEORGE ABBOTT asked Mr. WEISBERG about the question of a person masquerading as OSWALD. Mr. WEISBERG replied that he denoted a whole chapter in the book to this. Another person made the allegation that there was a man using the name OSWALD around September 15th. The FBI was asked to look into this and located three Cuban refugees, one of whom bore the resemblence of OSWALD. WEISBERG stated the Commission got around this by stating that OSWALD was in Mexico at the time.

This program is two hours in length and because of the great expense involved in taping this program, no extra copies of the tape could be made and none are available.

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